

# FOUNTAIN HILLS Insider

SPRING 2022

## Shining a Light on the Avenue

The long-anticipated installation of local artist Brian Schrader's Fountain of Light sculpture begins the first week of March on Avenue of the Fountains. Inspired by our fountain, the 45-foot glass spire features indirect interior lighting, which stays within the town's dark sky-friendly lighting codes. There is also a seating area at the base designed to create a relaxing spot to take in all the beauty of our town. Integrated into the base design will be bronze plaques to provide a bit of the history of our town, our past mayors, and recognition for those patrons who made the installation possible. The Fountain Hills Cultural and Civic Association and the Public Art Committee helped sponsor this unique sculpture as part of the Fountain at 50 Celebration. For more information about commemorative plaques – [www.ilovefountainhills.org/fountain-of-light/](http://www.ilovefountainhills.org/fountain-of-light/)



## The Grass Whisperer

**Parks Superintendent answers questions about using reclaimed water to irrigate parks**

Fountain Hills is recognized throughout the country for its famous fountain, beautiful scenery, world-class golf courses, events and arts, and most recently, for the outstanding parks and recreational programs by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and National Recreation and Park Association. A team of dedicated Town staff takes a lot of work to achieve this status. One of the critical leaders of Community Services who ensure our parks remain in tip-top shape is Parks Superintendent Kevin Snipes. One of Kevin's most formidable challenges is maintaining and improving the quality of the grass in our parks with high sodium content water.

The Town uses reclaimed water from the Fountain Hills Sanitary District for irrigation at Desert Vista Park, Golden Eagle Park, and Fountain Park. Maintaining healthy grass can be a struggle with the high sodium content in the reclaimed water due to sodium-based water systems used in many Fountain Hills residences.

### Q&A About Irrigating Our Parks

**Q:** Why does the town use reclaimed water?

**A:** The town uses reclaimed water because it is a free source of water for irrigation and supplying water for our lakes.

**Q:** What Fountain Hills parks and open space use reclaimed water from the Fountain Hills Sanitary District?

**A:** Desert Vista uses a direct feed system to supply reclaimed water from the Sanitary District. Golden Eagle and Fountain Park use reclaimed water that is pumped from the Sanitary District into a lake and then the parks pump out of the lakes for irrigation.

**Q:** What issues are there by using reclaimed water for the parks and fountain?

**A:** The biggest issue that we face in the park irrigation systems is the sodium that is in the water that we use for irrigating that is pumped from the lakes. As the water is in the lake it evaporates and leaves behind the sodium that is in the water. This causes the water in the lakes to continually get more salinity over time. In fact the water in Fountain Park Lake contains 3 times more sodium than the water we get in our direct feed systems. The water in Fountain Lake contains 630 ppm (parts per million) sodium vs our direct feed irrigation being 200 ppm. Sodium over 200 ppm is considered harmful for most plants and turf.

*Continued on page 7*



*Kevin Snipes, pictured on right, with Parks Lead Jorge Meneses looking over the turf of Desert Vista Park.*

## Fountain Hills Speaker Series on Dementia

Following the success of Fountain Hills Cares last summer, another event is planned for April. On Thursday, April 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Fountain Hills Community Center, Fountain Hills Cares will feature a special presentation on dementia and the caregivers who make a difference in the lives of those living with the disease. Fountain Hills Cares features topics affecting the residents of Fountain Hills.

According to the U.S. Census of 2020, 38 percent of residents in Fountain Hills are 65 or older. The Alzheimer's Association estimates that nationally, 10% of persons 60+ have dementia and 50 percent of people over the age of 85 have dementia. In Arizona alone, the association estimates that more than 140,000 Arizonans are living with dementia, which affects nearly 339,000 family caregivers. By 2025, these numbers are expected to increase by 43 percent. (2019 Alzheimer's Disease Facts & Figures)

The free Fountain Hills Cares presentation about "Changing the Way People Think, Act and Talk about Dementia" will feature Community Outreach Coordinator for Foundation for Senior Living Nydia Montijo, MPH. See the comparison of Normal Aging vs. Early Signs and Symptoms of dementia on page 6.





# Town Council Meetings

## FOUNTAIN HILLS COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Ginny Dickey  
Vice Mayor Alan Magazine  
Councilmember Gerry Friedel  
Councilmember Sharron Grzybowski  
Councilmember Peggy McMahon  
Councilmember Mike Scharnow  
Councilmember David Spelich



(photo L-R, front row: McMahon, Dickey, Grzybowski  
Backrow: Spelich, Scharnow, Magazine, Friedel)

Town Council did not meet from June 16 through August 16 for the summer break. To review the approved agenda items, and all Town Council upcoming and previous agenda items, go to [www.fh.az.gov/agendas](http://www.fh.az.gov/agendas).

## NOTABLE TOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS

(All meetings start at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Chambers)

### December, 2021

- Approved Public Art Committee's recommendation for sculpture at Casas Del Lago Apartments titled "Movimento Organico"

### January, 2022

- Approved request for Arizona State Parks and Trails Grants totaling \$800,000
- Approved operating procedure for fountain lighting at Fountain Park
- Approved engineering contract for final design of the Shea Blvd. Widening from Technology Drive to Palisades Blvd

### February, 2022

- Approved new vendor contract for the majority of parks, open space, and median landscaping maintenance
- February 12, 2022, Proclaimed Sally Atchinson Day – Town's 1st resident
- Republic Services Grant Awards to Fountain Hills Nonprofit Organizations

All meetings may be watched live on Cox Channel 11 and the Town's YouTube Channel. See the Town Council agenda at [www.fountainhillsaz.gov/agendas](http://www.fountainhillsaz.gov/agendas) for more information on how to participate and submit comment cards. Town Council meetings meet monthly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Work sessions are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. if necessary.

# River of Time Museum & Exploration Center Reopens After Pandemic Forced Closure

The global pandemic took its toll on many organizations across the Valley, including the L. Alan Cruikshank River of Time Museum & Exploration Center. For nearly two years, the nonprofit museum has been closed. But starting Saturday, March 26, the doors of the interactive, family-friendly museum will be open to the public again.

The River of Time Museum & Exploration Center made good use of the COVID-19 downtime by completing a nearly \$100,000 renovation. Grants and support from donors helped revitalize the museum, which was originally opened in its current location in 2003. The museum is located next to the local library and a magnificent sculpture garden with a view of the town's famous fountain.

As part of the recent renovation, the museum was updated to include an art gallery and exhibition space that will change several times throughout the year and feature a selection of artists and exhibits related to the Southwest. Interactive displays at the museum also include a one-of-a-kind, augmented reality sand table.

The grand opening event on March 26 will include crafts, hands-on exploration activities, a scavenger hunt, prizes and lessons on Arizona's native plants and indigenous animals. There will be characters in costume sharing facts on important historic people and dignitaries from the community welcoming back guests.

For more information, visit <https://www.riveroftime.museum/>





## GIVE-A-LIFT DRIVERS NEEDED

Give-A-Lift provides essential medical transportation to Fountain Hills residents that are physically disabled and/or 65 yrs and older



### Flexibility

Only fulfill Ride Request that fit your schedule and use your own vehicle



### Essential Service Provider

Give homebound residents the opportunity for better healthcare and independent living



### Rewarding Opportunity

In addition to providing essential medical transportation, GAL provides an essential social connection to the community

### Give-A-Lift Application Process

- ✓ Contact Kim Wickland for Application Materials
- ✓ Complete Town & GAL Applications
- ✓ Complete Online Background Clearance
- ✓ Must have current Drivers License and Car Insurance
- ✓ Complete GAL Waiver and Driver's Understanding
- ✓ Change a Homebound Seniors Life Forever

Contact Kim Wickland for more information on becoming a GAL Volunteer Driver  
480-816-5108  
[kwickland@fountainhillsaz.gov](mailto:kwickland@fountainhillsaz.gov)



**FOUNTAIN HILLS VOLUNTEERS**  
A Division of Community Services  
CONNECT | PLAY | EXPLORE



# The Bet That Turned the Fountain Green

During a Christmas party back in 1978, and after a few adult beverages, a few of the male attendees challenged each other to see who was more “Irish.” It all started on St. Patrick’s Day when a young homebuilder rode his horse into a local tavern to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and his heritage. So what could top such a stunt? How about a bet to turn the town’s fountain green, water ski around the fountain, and who doesn’t show up is out \$250! So, on St. Patrick’s Day 1979, with a large crowd watching from shore, the fountain was dyed green, and all the bettors skied around the fountain as planned, except for one. He couldn’t get up on the skis.

### GREENING OF THE FOUNTAIN

Thursday, March 17 | Noon and 5 p.m.  
Fountain Park | 12925 N. Saguaro Boulevard



# Purple Parking for Purple Hearts

In February, the Town designated eight parking spaces in recognition of Purple Heart recipients. The spaces are painted purple with the Purple Heart insignia, as well as signs showing that the spaces are reserved. Please save these spaces who have sacrificed for our nation. The spots are located in the following locations:

- Town Hall Campus, three locations, one in front of Town Hall, Community Center and South Library parking lots.
- Fountain Park, two locations, one by splash pad, one in East Lot.
- Golden Eagle, one in middle lot.
- Four Peaks, one in North lot.
- Desert Vista, one in upper lot.



James Elco of Elco Enterprises Inc. adding gold paint to the parking spot at Fountain Park.

FOOD TRUCKS ✨ LIVE MUSIC  
KIDS ZONE ✨ BEER GARDEN

**SATURDAY  
03.12.22  
11AM-5PM  
FOUNTAIN PARK**

**IRISH FOUNTAIN FEST**  
ShamRock the Hills  
2022

FOUNTAIN HILLS  
COMMUNITY SERVICES  
@FHParksAndRec  
@FountainHillsRec  
480-816-5100  
fh.az.gov/recreation

PRESENTED BY:  
**RE/MAX** SUN PROPERTIES  
The Southern Lifestyle Team

**FREE EVENT**







# Off-Leash Dogs Can be Costly

The Town of Fountain Hills contracts with Maricopa County Animal Control to periodically patrol the town to help ensure dog owners are obeying laws about canine ownership. In January, in a two-day sweep, Animal Control issued 19 citations to owners that either had their dog off-leash, did not have a license, or both. The fines are \$300 per citation. Please leash up your dog for everyone's, including your pet's safety. Call Maricopa Animal Control at 602-372-4598.

Arizona State Law (A.R.S. 11-1012: Dogs not permitted at large; wearing licenses) reads "D. No person in charge of any dog shall permit such dog in a public park or upon any public school property unless the dog is physically restrained by a leash, enclosed in a car, cage or similar enclosure or being exhibited or trained at a recognized kennel club event, public school or park sponsored event."



## DATES TO REMEMBER FOR YOU AND YOUR BEST FRIEND

Upcoming days to celebrate your best friends. Share photos on our social media and be sure to include #LeashUpCleanUp with your post.

**March 13 – K-9 Veterans Day:** It's #NationalK9VetransDay.

We salute all our K-9 veterans throughout the state and in our community. They are always on a leash in public despite having years of training. #LeashUpCleanUp

**March 23 – National Puppy Day:** It's #NationaPuppyDay! Celebrate today by going to adopt a puppy at your local shelter and don't forget to take the pledge to #LeashUpCleanUp (insert pledge link)

**March 30 – Take a Walk in the Park Day:** It's #NationaTakeAWalk InTheParkDay While you are out enjoying a walk in the park with your four-legged friends, don't forget, they must be on a leash when not in designated off-leash areas. It's the law.

**April 1-7 – International Pooper Scooper Week:** It's #InternationalPopperScooperWeek Remember to always do your part and clean up after your pet. #LeashUpCleanUp

**April 10 – National Hug Your Dog Day:** It's #NationalHugYourDogDay, share your photos of your four-legged friends on your social media. Tag @townoffountainhills and #LeashUpCleanUp

**April 22 – Earth Day:** It's #EarthDay and the perfect day to be reminded that dog waste that is not taken care of can also affect the environment. It contains toxins that seep into the soil as they decompose, ultimately affecting our fresh water supply. Water filtration systems are not designed to filter out dog waste. Eventually, it will make its way into our rivers, lakes, oceans, and drinking water. The Environmental Protection Agency warns that dog waste is as harmful to our environment as chemical and oil spills. The pathogens contained in dog waste can make local waters unusable and can cause serious illnesses in people.

**April 23 – National Lost Dog Awareness Day:** It's #NationalLostDog AwarenessDay. The best way to keep your pet safe is to keep them on a leash when not in an off-leash area. #LeashUpCleanUp

## WHO DO I CALL?

THREAT TO LIFE OR PUBLIC SAFETY  
EMERGENCIES – Call 911

Town Hall  
(480) 816-5100 (Monday – Thursday)  
Town Website – [www.fountainhillsaz.gov](http://www.fountainhillsaz.gov)  
Community Center – (480) 816-5200  
Activity Center – (480) 816-5226  
Public Library – (602) 652-3000  
Community Services – (480) 816-5100

Sheriff's Dispatch  
(602) 876-1011 Call 911 for Emergencies

Fountain Hills Fire Department  
Station 1 – 480-837-9820;  
Station 2 – 480-837-0804;  
Call 911 for Emergencies  
Non-Emergency Line: 602-876-1011

Fountain Hills Unified School District  
(480) 664-5000

Fountain Hills Municipal Court  
(480) 816-5103

Century Link  
Residential customers, (866) 642-0444;  
Business customers, (877) 744-4416

Cox Communications – (602) 277-1000

EPCOR Water – (800) 383-0834

Republic Services  
(Garbage removal) (602) 237-2078

Salt River Project – (Electric utility)  
General information, (602) 236-8888;  
emergency (24 hours), (602) 236-8811

Fountain Hills Sanitary District  
(480) 837-9444

Maricopa County Animal Control  
(602) 506-7387

Code Enforcement Hotline  
(480) 816-5193

## Dog Park Receives Shade Structures

Through a generous donation of \$27,000 from an anonymous donor and the support of ADOG, the Desert Vista Dog Park has added three new shade structures.



### WHY IS THE DOG PARK PAWSITIVELY AWESOME?

Besides the fact that our furry friends can play with their friends, the benefits of dog parks are much deeper than just playtime. Bringing your pup regularly to the dog park can vastly impact health, behavior, and overall well-being.

- 1. Socialization** – Dogs need socialization because it helps them get comfortable around unfamiliar dogs and humans without showing skittish or aggressive behavior. Desert Vista Dog Park gives your dog a safe place to be exposed to other canines regularly.
- 2. Exercise** – Like humans, dogs need a daily exercise routine to ward off health problems, such as obesity. Energetic dogs will sometimes resort to destructive behavior (such as chewing up your new shoes) if they don't get enough physical and mental stimulation. At the dog park, your pup can run free without a leash.
- 3. Safety** – Streets are getting busier, and leash laws are getting stricter. How can you take your dog out of the house and into the world without the extra worry? Desert Vista Dog Park is the SAFE place to be. With fenced-in areas and guidelines designed to promote a secure yet fun specifically for canines, you can sit back and watch your dog enjoy freedom off the leash.

Dogs must be licensed and have proper vaccinations. The Dog Park is divided into 2 fenced areas, 1 for larger dogs and the other smaller canines. The large/active dog area can be accessed from entrances on either Tower Drive or Desert Vista. The small/passive dog area can only be accessed from Tower Drive.



### DESERT VISTA DOG PARK

11800 Desert Vista | [www.fountainhillsaz.gov/698/Desert-Vista-Park](http://www.fountainhillsaz.gov/698/Desert-Vista-Park)



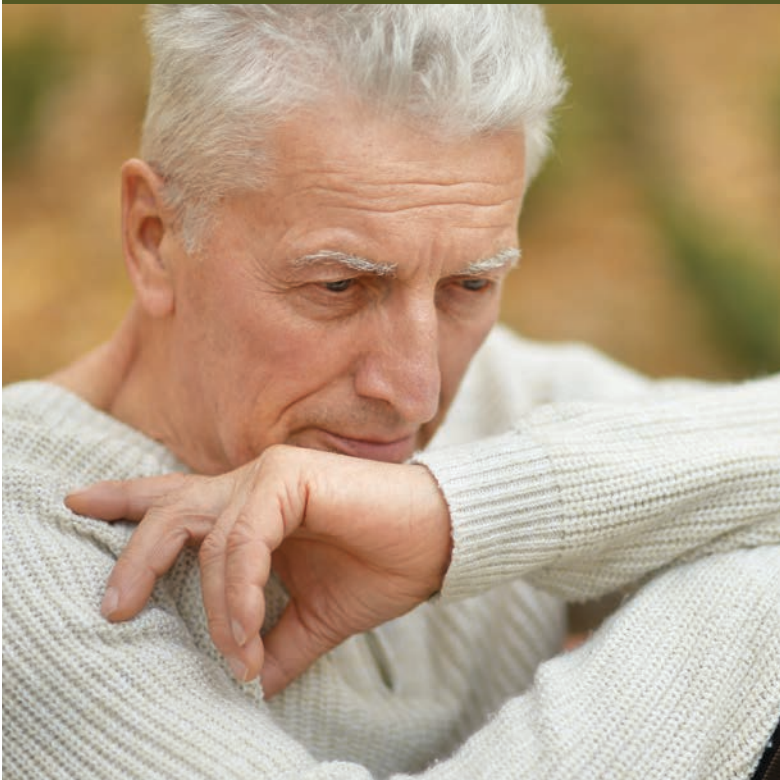
# Suicide and Crisis Hotlines

[Always call 911 first if you or someone you love is experiencing a life-threatening medical emergency or may be a danger to someone else.]

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health, here are resources available to help.

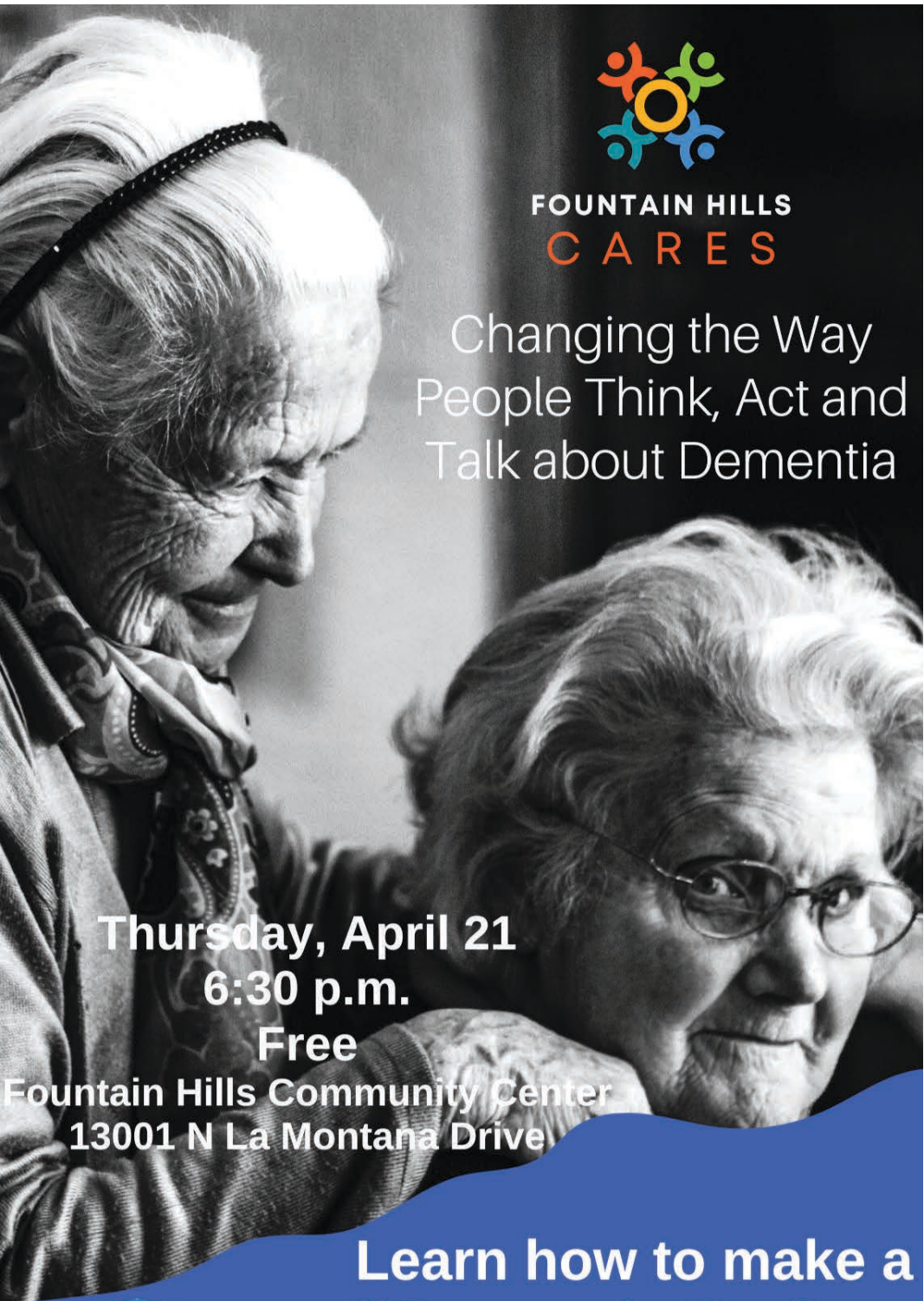
Dial 2-1-1 to reach 211 Arizona. If you need assistance locating long-term mental health resources, talking through a problem, or exploring mental health treatment options, call 211 to speak with a live person who can help. 211 conversations are confidential, can be made anonymously, and are available in 180 languages upon request.

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
- Veterans Crisis Line: call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and press 1; or text 838255
- Crisis Text Line: text the word 'Home' to 741-741
- The Trevor Lifeline for LGBTQ Youth: call 1-866-488-7386
- The Trans Lifeline: call 1-877-565-8860



FOUNTAIN HILLS  
CARE S

Changing the Way  
People Think, Act and  
Talk about Dementia



Thursday, April 21  
6:30 p.m.

Free

Fountain Hills Community Center  
13001 N La Montana Drive



Learn how to make a  
difference in the lives  
of people with  
dementia.

Learn more at  
[www.fountainhillsaz.gov/special-presentations](http://www.fountainhillsaz.gov/special-presentations)

# Normal Aging vs. Alzheimer's

Normal Aging	Early Signs & Symptoms
Sometimes forgetting names or appointments but remembering later	Memory loss that disrupts daily life
Making occasional errors when balancing a checkbook	Challenges in planning or solving problems
Occasional help to use the settings on a microwave or to record a TV show	Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure
Confused about the day of the week but recalling later	Confusion with time and place
Vision changes (i.e., cataracts)	Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships



# The Grass Whisperer

**Q:** How does the town work-around the issue of salts in the water to make our parks look so good, or best they can?

**A:** There are several methods the town uses to help combat the salts in our irrigation water. Periodically the town waters heavier than normal to help with flushing the salts through the soil to push past the root zone. An injection system is also used to add products from HCT, WaterSolve and WaterSolve BC, to our irrigation systems. This combination has greatly improved our soil conditions allowing for vast improvements in our turf and plant quality over the last 4 years. This does come at a considerable cost while we are trying to work within budget.

**Q:** What is the long term consequences of continued use of reclaimed water with such high sodium?

**A:** Long term consequences of using reclaimed water, especially when pulling water from a large 100,000,000 gallon lake at Fountain Park is challenging. The only use of the water is for irrigation. It takes about 1.5 years to use the amount of water the lake holds. This means that it will continue to get more and more sodium.

**Q:** What can Town residents do to help make the parks' grass greener?

**A:** Reduce the amount of sodium that is poured down the drains, mostly from water softeners, because it eventually ends up irrigating the Town's parks.

Kevin Snipes was hired as the Parks Superintendent for Fountain Hills in 2016. He is certified as an Arizona Certified Landscape Professional, Certified Spray Applicator and a Certified Playground Safety Inspector.



# Volunteers Help Feed Neighbors in Need

There are residents in Fountain Hills who require meal assistance. These individuals may be recovering from illness or surgery, or they are home-bound and wish to reside longer in the comfort of their own home. Home Delivered Meals Program makes a difference by providing a nutritional noon-time meal for individuals of all ages.

The Home Delivered Meals Program is looking for volunteer teams (of two people) to deliver during in the summer months. If interested, don't hesitate to contact Nita Blose, HDM Coordinator, at 480-816-5229.



## Donations

Donations support the Home Delivered Meals Program by subsidizing the cost of the meals for residents in need of meal assistance. Donations may be tax-deductible. Donors should seek advice from their accountant and reference our federal tax ID #86-0650150.

To donate, please make your check payable to:

Home Delivered Meals – Community Center  
13001 N. La Montana Drive, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

**CONCERTS ON THE Avenue**  
THURSDAYS 6-8 pm  
APRIL 14, 21, & 28

Presented by  
**RE/MAX** SUN PROPERTIES  
THE Sonoran Lifestyle TEAM  
**FOUNTAIN HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
CONNECT | PLAY | EXPLORE

Because of you, life doesn't stop. **#VitalToLife**

**Fountain Hills & Noon Kiwanis Community BLOOD DRIVE**  
**Friday and Saturday, April 15-16**  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Community Center Pima & Hopi Rooms  
13001 N. La Montana

Contact Dr. Liz Smith at 480-837-2600 or 480-206-4785, Paul Appeldorn at (480) 836-8213 or visit donors.vitalant.org (Blood Drive Code: Kiwanis)

The Renaissance Festival would like to thank you for giving blood with a voucher for an adult admission ticket to the festival.

**ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS** are encouraged to help maintain social distancing.  
Regardless of vaccination status, all donors must bring and wear a **MASK** or **CLOTH-BASED FACE COVERING**.

**DONATE BLOOD**  
vitalant.org | 877-25-VITAL

**vitalant.**





Town of Fountain Hills  
16705 E Avenue of the Fountains  
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

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# FOUNTAIN HILLS Insider

## FOUNTAIN HILLS COMMUNITY SERVICES UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING  
2022

**SATURDAY  
MAR 12**  
11:00AM - 5:00PM

### IRISH FOUNTAIN FEST

#### Fountain Park

Put on your green and join the town as we shamROCK the Hills at Irish Fountain Fest! Food, fun, and live music will all be a part of this family-friendly event, and our World Famous Fountain will be transformed into a bright emerald green geyser at 12:00 and 4:00pm. Free Admission



**SATURDAY  
MAR 26**  
7:00PM - 9:00PM

### MOVIE NIGHT ON THE BALLFIELDS

#### Golden Eagle Park

Fountain Hills is excited to offer a sports themed party on our ball fields. Join us for a free movie night under the stars. Food trucks and inflatables will be on-site. Don't forget to bring a blanket or chairs to get comfy. Free for all ages! (Movie subject to change).

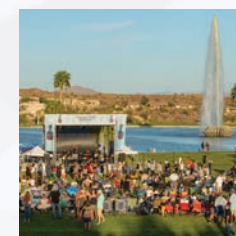


**FRI - SAT  
APR 1-2**  
4:00PM - 9:30PM

### MUSIC FEST

#### Fountain Park

Join us for 2 days of amazing live music. Two bands will be performing on Friday and three bands on Saturday. This year's music fest will also feature food truck dining options and a beer garden by Bone Haus Brewing. Free Admission



**SATURDAY  
APR 9**  
8:00AM - 10:00AM

### EGGSTRAVAGANZA

#### Golden Eagle Park

Join us at Golden Eagle Park on April 9, 2022, at 8:00 am - 10:00 am, and watch as hundreds of kids scramble to pick up over 15,000 eggs stuffed with candy and other prizes. Inflatables, activities, and pictures with Hoppy the Bunny and Peeps are just a few of the fun activities.

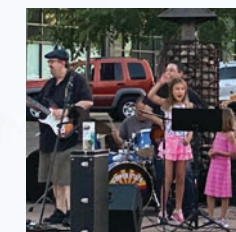


**THURSDAYS  
APR 14, 21, 28**  
6:00PM - 8:00PM

### CONCERTS ON THE AVENUE

#### THE AVENUE

Enjoy live music along the Avenue of the Fountains with our evening concert series. Two different artists each night. Play cornhole and yard games. Shop from local artists set up along the Avenue.



**FRIDAY  
APR 22**  
5:00PM - 7:00PM

### ReCycle ReCreate EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

#### FOUNTAIN HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER

Join us for this multi-generational event to create art from recycled products, compete in the cardboard fort contest, gather for rock painting, gardening, & more. An award presentation for the Recycled Art Contest will culminate the event. A food truck will be onsite for dining options.



[@FHParksAndRec](#)  
[@FountainHillsRec](#)  
480-816-5100  
[fh.az.gov/recreation](http://fh.az.gov/recreation)

RE/MAX SUN PROPERTIES  
THE Sonoran Lifestyle TEAM